

Meeting Minutes Approved - 5/7/2007

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

APRIL 26, 2007

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, April 26, 2007 at the Cumberland Administrative Office/Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, was called to order at 7:39 PM, by Chairman Frederic C. Crowley, with the following present:

Frederic C. Crowley, Chairman, Karen MacBeth, Clerk, Lisa Beaulieu, Donald J. Costa, W. David Wagner, Earl T. Wood

Also Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D., Superintendent; Susan C. Carney, Ph.D, Assistant Superintendent; Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director of Administration

Absent: Robert Thibodeau, Vice Chair

I. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was led by committee members.

II. Approval of Agenda - On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the agenda.

III. Chairperson's Report - The Chair reported the robotics students

received a very good report. He was speaking to a member of the Middletown school Committee who happened to be a chaperone on the trip to Atlanta and said the students were not just great in the content of their project, but their behavior was beyond expectations of anyone. Mr. Crowley also reported he and Mr. Costa had lunch with Chief Desmarias and discussed how they can work together in general. He noted Mr. Thibodeau's absence. He reminded speakers to sign up and limit comments to five minutes.

IV. Comments from the Public

A. Public Comments - Michael Monigan read a letter regarding decreasing technical courses at the high school. He takes Auto with Mr. Zangari and didn't plan to attend a four year college, but hoped to enter the work force making more than minimum wage. Ms. Lambert thanked Mr. Hilton for making repairs so quickly and thanked Mr. Prignano for the copy machines and Dr. Carney for her remarks to the Community School faculty. Mr. McLaughlin reported having the pleasure of working with the debate team on their trip to Houston. There will be a pasta supper May 22nd, 6:00 - 9:30 p.m., sponsored by the St. Thomas Council, K of C Hall at 22 Broad Street. Tickets are \$10. He stated they raised \$340 at Honey Dew donuts. Mrs. Parsons noted she had written a letter to the committee about walking on High Street to McCourt. She felt there is a safety issue. The Chair noted he did address this with the Chief of Police. The Superintendent mentioned that she spoke to Mayor McKee today about an initiative, RI Safe Routes to School Program and will report on it later.

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Mr. Costa asked the Superintendent to have a meeting on a Saturday morning to discuss this with parents, and the Chief of Police and the traffic officer will be present.

Frank Geary stated he was speaking on behalf of the historic Franklin Farm. They are planning a day to have students help plant. They will offer environmental gardening, water quality testing and will plant a pizza garden and a colonial garden. There are 110 students from NCMS volunteering and he would like buses provided. Dr. Morelle asked Mr. Geary to come by her office to complete the necessary forms. Mr. Wood asked how students sign up and Mr. Geary stated teachers are volunteering.

B. Student Government Report - None.

V. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Finance Committee

1. Payment of Invoices - On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE payment of invoices in the amount of \$2,077,943.23.

2. Approval of Food Service Contract - Mr. Wagner reported there were two bids and the finance subcommittee voted to award the contract to Sodexo. Mr. Costa made a motion to award the food

service contract to Sodexo. Ms. MacBeth provided a second.

On a point of order, Mr. Wood stated the subcommittee can only make a recommendation and this should be an agenda item at the next meeting. Mr. Wood made a motion to table. Mr. Costa provided a second for discussion. Since there is no discussion on a table Mr. Costa removed his second. Ms. Beaulieu provided a second. On a roll call vote, the motion FAILED 3-3 with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wood, Mr. Wagner, Ms. Beaulieu; NAY: Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Costa, Mr. Crowley.

Mr. Kelly requested a point of order, stating the committee violated the open meetings law because this was not properly advertised. Mr. Crowley felt they had. Mr. Costa asked Mr. Rotella if a bid comes out of the Finance Subcommittee, it was advertised in the finance committee as awarding of the food service contract. Mr. Rotella stated the practice of the committee has been to provide the finance committee with an agenda and the agenda item is the awarding of the food service contract. There is nothing on the agenda itself for the school committee, but there is for Reports of Standing Committees. In the past the committee has approved recommendation of the subcommittee. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 5-1 TO APPROVE the motion, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wagner, Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Costa, Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Mr. Wood.

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3. Food Service Repayment Plan - Ms. MacBeth made a motion to approve the loan between the school department and the town. A second was provided by Mr. Wagner. There was a draft resolution to be presented to the Town Council. It was understood that if it is owed they pay it and if not, it won't be paid. It may have been paid back in 1991 or 1992. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 5-1 TO APPROVE the motion, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wagner, Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Costa, Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Mr. Wood.

B. Personnel Committee - Ms. MacBeth reported meeting tonight on the job description for the High School Principal. It will be presented to the committee at the next meeting.

VI. Consent Agenda

A. Personnel Recommendations - The Superintendent presented the following:

1. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the resignation of Christine Salcido, English Teacher at Cumberland High School, effective 6/30/2007.

2. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the resignation of Diane Treichler, Reading Teacher at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 4/25/2007.

3. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was

VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the FMLA Parental Leave of Kimberly Slowik, Grade 6 Teacher at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 5/11/2007 to the commencement of the 2008-2009 school year.

VII. Approval of Minutes

A. Executive Session: 1/11/07, 2/8/07, 3/8/07, 3/22/07, 3/28/07 - Ms. MacBeth made a motion to table. A second was provided by Mr. Wagner. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE tabling.

VIII. Old Business

A. Building Committee Updates - Mr. Wood reported the 2010 Building Committee met and construction is continuing. Bids were reviewed for value engineering. Renovations to classrooms should start mid-May. Mr. Wood reported there were eight companies that picked up bid packets, but only one bid was received from ADS Construction. The bid isn't low enough for both projects. He noted the building committee suggested completing the full Ashton project and look for alternate funding for Cumberland Hill. Mr. Wood spoke to Mr. Higgins for either a special meeting of the Town Council or to get on next week's agenda. He noted the Ashton project came in at \$1,842,000. They are looking to do the fire code work at Cumberland Hill for \$95,360, for a total of \$1,937,360. He reviewed details of the two projects.

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B. Job Share Policy Revision - Mr. Costa reported the Rules & Regulations Committee met and expanded on the job share policy. He read the policy. It was noted a letter will be sent to parents. Ms. MacBeth noted parents should be notified prior to the first day of school. The Superintendent reviewed the changes. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the Cumberland School Job Share Policy as amended.

C. The Coordinated School Health and Wellness Subcommittee Annual Report - Mr. Costa thanked the Wellness Policy committee and Mrs Karbonik for Co-Chairing the committee. He noted the committee had agreed to shorten the report and it will be on file in the Superintendent's office. He noted they are required to report out district menus and meal counts; a la carte and vending foods throughout the district; a list of physical activities in the schools; and a list of staff wellness activities.

D. Approval of the 2007-2008 School Calendar - The Superintendent noted the proposed calendar reflects the start date after Labor Day that gives additional time for the project at the high school. The last day of school would be June 20th, provided there are no make up days. It allows for professional development during the year and teacher orientation. Mr. Wood commented November is the shortest month and there is a professional day scheduled. The Superintendent responded that the Northern RI Collaborative has

tentatively scheduled a professional development day. Ms. MacBeth asked about the winter vacation and starting in the middle of the week. The Superintendent explained the calendar was based on the Superintendent's Association template and consideration was given for the Woonsocket Tech. Mr. Wagner made a motion to approve the calendar. A second was provided by Mr. Costa and Ms. Beaulieu. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 4-2 TO APPROVE the calendar, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wagner, Mr. Costa, Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Mr. Wood, Ms. MacBeth.

IX. New Business

A. Graduation Policy - First Reading - The first reading was performed by the Assistant Superintendent. Dr. Carney noted C. Transfer Students should be rewritten. Ms. MacBeth requested grade placement be inserted. The Superintendent noted after the first reading the policy is filed with the state and they will make recommendations based on the new graduation guidelines and it will be brought back for a second reading.

X. Superintendent's Report - The Superintendent reported she has contacted the Mayor's office regarding how the Town could collaborate on grant money available from a Safe Routes to School program. She and the Mayor will be attending a meeting on May 7th. The program can be for sidewalks, traffic calming and education programs for students K-8. She will be looking for parent representation. The Committee offered its support.

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XI. Comments from the Public - Mrs. Parsons asked about the half credit for Technology and was told that was a minimum credit. Ms. Lemiere asked for more information on the May 7th meeting and was told to contact the Superintendent's office.

XII. School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports) - Ms. MacBeth reported attending the North Cumberland Middle School PTO meeting and although they are high performing they are looking at their weaknesses and will be addressing that in their school improvement plan. NCMS is looking for a business partnership and there is a PTO web site. Mr. Costa asked about the meetings on the budget and the Superintendent stated she would contact Mr. Higgins and Mr. Mutter.

XIII. Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion and/or Action Items Referred to in GLRI 42-46-5

A. Personnel Matters - Exceptions (1)

4. CTA/ICSE

B. Negotiations/Litigation - Exceptions (2)

1. CTA/ICSE

2. Central Administrators' Contracts

3. Non-Contractual Salaries

4. Potential Litigation

Mr. Wagner made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Mr. Costa provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 5-1 to approve, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wood, Mr. Wagner, Ms. MacBeth, Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Mr. Costa. Open Session recessed at 9:09 p.m.

Open Session reconvened at 10:01 p.m. without Mr. Costa. On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE sealing the Executive Session minutes.

XIV. Adjournment - On a motion by Ms. MacBeth, and a second by Ms. Beaulieu, it was VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE adjourning the Open Session at 10:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Harris

Recording Secretary

Approved by the School Committee May 7, 2007